

THE BOOK OF HOSEA

LESSON 7

Hosea’s Prophecies 4:1 – 14:8

No More Festivals: 9:1 – 9

Rebels Rejected by Yahweh: 9:10 – 17

No More Cult or King: 10:1 – 8

Destroyed by War: 10:9 – 15

Praise God for your desire to study the Bible. We welcome you to join our Thursday Night Bible Study sessions at FAME, 7:30 – 9:00 PM.

Directions: Please read and study the scripture lesson and any other scripture references, the Illumination section, and the Observation section, than answer the questions in the Exploration section. When you submit your answers on the answer sheet a Bible study teacher will review your answers and provide comments within 2 weeks of submission. These comments will enrich your Bible study experience and is not intended to grade or judge your knowledge or understanding.

Hosea 9:1 – 10:15 NIV	Illumination
<p>¹ Do not rejoice, Israel; do not be jubilant like the other nations. For you have been unfaithful to your God; you love the wages of a prostitute at every threshing floor. Threshing floors and winepresses will not feed the people; the new wine will fail them.³ They will not remain in the LORD’s land; Ephraim will return to Egypt and eat unclean food in Assyria. ⁴ They will not pour out wine offerings to the LORD, nor will their sacrifices please him. Such sacrifices will be to them like the bread of mourners; all who eat them will be unclean. This food will be for themselves; it will not come into the temple of the LORD. ⁵ What will you do on the day of your appointed festivals, on the feast days of the LORD? ⁶ Even if they escape from destruction, Egypt will gather them, and Memphis will bury them. Their treasures of silver will be taken over by briars, and thorns will overrun their tents. ⁷ The days of punishment are coming, the days of reckoning are at hand. Let Israel know this. Because your sins are so many and your hostility so great, the prophet is considered a fool, the inspired person a maniac. ⁸ The prophet, along with my God, is the watchman over Ephraim, yet snares await him on all his paths, and hostility in the house of his God. ⁹ They have sunk deep into corruption, as in the days of Gibeah. God will remember their wickedness and punish them for their sins. ¹⁰ “When I found Israel, it was like finding grapes in the desert; when I saw your ancestors, it was like seeing the early fruit on the fig tree. But when they came to Baal Peor, they consecrated themselves to that shameful idol and became as vile as the thing they loved. ¹¹ Ephraim’s glory will fly away like a bird— no birth, no pregnancy, no conception. ¹² Even if they rear children, I will bereave them of every one. Woe to them when I turn away from them! ¹³ I have seen Ephraim, like Tyre, planted in a pleasant place. But Ephraim will bring out their children to the slayer.” ¹⁴ Give them, LORD— what will you give them? Give them wombs that miscarry and breasts that are dry. ¹⁵ “Because of all their wickedness in Gilgal, I hated them there. Because of their sinful deeds, I will drive them out of my house. I will no longer love them; all their leaders are rebellious. ¹⁶ Ephraim is blighted, their root is withered, they yield no fruit. Even if they bear children, I will slay their cherished offspring.” ¹⁷ My God will reject them because they have not obeyed him; they will be wanderers among the nations.</p> <p>Hosea 10</p> <p>¹ Israel was a spreading vine; he brought forth fruit for himself. As his fruit increased, he built more altars; as his land prospered, he adorned his sacred stones. ² Their heart is deceitful, and now they must bear their guilt. The LORD will demolish their altars and destroy their sacred stones. ³ Then they will say, “We have no king because we did not revere the LORD. But even if we had a king, what could he do for us?” ⁴ They make many promises, take false oaths and make agreements; therefore lawsuits spring up like poisonous weeds in a plowed field. ⁵ The people who live in Samaria fear for the calf-idol of Beth Aven. Its people will mourn over it, and so will its idolatrous priests, those who had rejoiced over its splendor, because it is taken from them into exile. ⁶ It will be carried to Assyria as tribute for the great king. Ephraim will be disgraced; Israel will be ashamed of its foreign alliances. ⁷ Samaria’s king will be destroyed, swept away like a twig on the surface of the waters. ⁸ The high places of wickedness will be destroyed— it is the sin of Israel. Thorns and thistles will grow up and cover their altars. Then they will say to the mountains, “Cover us!” and to the hills, “Fall on us!” ⁹ “Since the days of Gibeah, you have sinned, Israel, and there you have remained. Will not war again overtake the evildoers in Gibeah? ¹⁰ When I please, I will punish them; nations will be gathered against them to put them in bonds for their double sin. ¹¹ Ephraim is a trained heifer that loves to thresh; so I will put a yoke on her fair neck. I will drive Ephraim, Judah must plow, and Jacob must break up the ground. ¹² Sow righteousness for yourselves, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your unplowed ground; for it is time to seek the LORD, until he comes and showers his righteousness on you. ¹³ But you have planted wickedness, you have reaped evil, you have eaten the fruit of deception. Because you have depended on your own strength and on your many warriors, ¹⁴ the roar of battle will rise against your people, so that all your fortresses will be devastated— as Shalman devastated Beth Arbel on the day of battle, when mothers were dashed to the ground with their children. ¹⁵ So will it happen to you, Bethel, because your wickedness is great. When that day dawns, the king of Israel will be completely destroyed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memphis – an Egyptian city known for its great cemeteries, tombs and pyramids. It is used as symbol for the unclean land of the exiles. <i>Nelson Study Bible</i> • Hemlock in the Furrow of a Field – “the analogy refers to poisonous weeds sprouting up in a field and choking out the crops.” <i>Nelson Study Bible</i>

THE BOOK OF HOSEA**LESSON 7****Hosea's Prophecies 4:1 – 14:8**

No More Festivals: 9:1 – 9

Rebels Rejected by Yahweh: 9:10 – 17

No More Cult or King: 10:1 – 8

Destroyed by War: 10:9 – 15

Observations

- ❖ Chapters 9 and 10 are announcements of judgment on Israel. They provide details of what would happen and why.
- ❖ Verses 9:1-9 announced that there would be no more festivals. There would be no more festivals because Israel would be dispersed into the land of their captors. Also these verses contain a dialogue between Hosea and the people. It is believed to have happen at one of the harvesting festivals before Israel's destruction.
 - In verse 1 Hosea told the people not to rejoice like the other people. The Israelites celebrations were not to take on the characteristics of those who worshiped Baal.
 - The harvest festivals like the Feast of Tabernacles (Deut. 31:10-13) were God appointed time to renew their covenant with the Lord and give thanks. Now the festivals had become a time to offer up sacrifice to Baal and to acknowledge that Baal had provided the harvest. Israel was committing adultery against their Lord.
 - In verse 2 we read that the harvests will not always be plenteous as a result of Israel's actions in verse 1.
 - In verse 3 Hosea announced that the people of the Northern kingdom will not always dwell in the Lord's land. The Promised Land belonged to the Lord and He decides who should live in it. Lev. 25:23
 - Some would return/escape to Egypt.
 - Some would be taken to Assyria where they would have to eat unclean things. In Assyria in order to survive the people would have to eat meat offered to Assyria's idols.
 - In verse 4 Hosea told the people when you are no longer living in Israel that which you have the opportunity to do but do not will not be an option.
 - They will not be able to offer sacrifices to the Lord as atonement for their sins. The items presented to the Lord would not be unblemished as required, but eatable. In addition, people would be considered unclean as they handled the dead. Numbers 19:14, 15, 22 The Levites would have to work and strive to survive as the other people. There would be no Temple for them to care for and do their appointed ministry.
 - In verses 5 – 7A Hosea asks the people questions to emphasizing the fact that judgment is coming.
 - What are they going to do when judgment comes and they can no long celebrate these festivals?
 - What are they going to do when they are living in an unclean land?
 - What are they going to do when the Promised Land is overtaken with thorns and nettles?
 - Verses 7B-9 is a one-on-one dialogue between Hosea and the people. Hosea learned what they thought about him and other true prophets of God
 - They thought that Hosea was a fool and insane. They refused to accept his warning.
 - They accused Hosea of being sinful and having strong resentment toward them.
 - In verse 8 Hosea responded to the accusations. He announced that he was a watchman of Ephraim and that the Lord was with him. A prophet is like a watchman because they are sent by God to warn the people of the dangers of their sins.
 - In verse 9 Hosea provided a point of reference in the history of Israel for its current sinful state. Read Judge 19

THE BOOK OF HOSEA**LESSON 7****Hosea's Prophecies 4:1 – 14:8**

No More Festivals: 9:1 – 9

Rebels Rejected by Yahweh: 9:10 – 17

No More Cult or King: 10:1 – 8

Destroyed by War: 10:9 – 15

Observations, continued

- ❖ Hosea spoke to the judgment of bareness that was coming in verses 9:10-17. He begins with a historical reflection of the beginning of God's relationship with Israel.
 - Verse 10 is a historical reflection.
 - God choose/found Israel. He was excited/delighted as finding grapes in a wilderness. Israel did not find/select God.
 - In the beginning (your fathers) God was delighted with their relationship. First fruit on the fig tree were considered irresistible delicacies that brought great delight. Note Mark 11:12-14; 19-22 when the fig tree no longer produced fruit.
 - However the people started committing adultery with other Gods. Read Numbers 25 to understand the reference of Baal Peor. Israel was now doing the same thing in the same city. They had not learned.
 - In addition, they became an abomination to the Lord as was the other gods that they loved.
 - In verses 11-17 judgment is announced.
 - Bareness of children – verses 11- 14, 16
 - Bareness of not living in the Promised Land – 15, 17
 - In verse 15 the Lord used strong language to express his response to sin/wickedness of the people. He hated it and the people. The Lord is opposed to sin and wickedness – Jer. 12:8; Rom. 9:13; Psalm 5:5. I believe it is the Lord's hatred of sin and His love for His creation that allowed Him to send His only begotten son as a ransom, as a propitiation for humans' sin. We no longer have to dwell in sin and wickedness.
- ❖ In verses 10:1 – 8 Hosea continues to explain why the judgment of God is coming.
 - Prosperity led to the building of more altars for Baal worship. They wanted more and more and thought that Baal could provide it. It did not lead to thankful and grateful hearts acknowledging the true giver, the Lord. Verse 1
 - The people had divided loyalties – Baal and Yahweh. God wants all of our faithfulness and loyalty. Verse 2
 - Verses 3 – 4 anticipated the people's reaction to the judgment.
 - The people would acknowledge that they do not have a king because they did not trust God to select the right one.
 - However they did not believe that the right king would have made difference in saving them.
 - The people said all the right things to God, however their actions and heart were false.
 - As a result of their actions and heart, judgment would come and overtake the blessings that the Lord had provided.
 - In verses 5 – 8 we read that the people were still looking to their idols. However these idols would not save them and they would be carried to Assyria. In addition, the high place and other places of Baal worship would be destroyed.
- ❖ In verses 10:9-10 Hosea once again recalls (5:8; 9:9) the depravity that happened at Gibeah. Read Judges 19 – 20 Gibeah has become a symbol for the sinfulness of the people. It appears that they have not learned their lessons concerning sin.
 - The Lord was going to chasten the people because they had not learned their lesson the first.
- ❖ In verses 10:11 – 12 familiar language of farming is used to explain the Lord's purpose for the people and their response to it.
 - The Lord had a purpose for Israel. The Lord wanted a strong people that could be trained/disciplined in His way. A heifer as a young cow was trainable.
 - However Israel did not always want to follow the ways of the Lord. They loved to do what they wanted to do. An untrained heifer on threshing floor will eat until he is sick.

THE BOOK OF HOSEA

LESSON 7

Hosea's Prophecies 4:1 – 14:8

No More Festivals: 9:1 – 9

Rebels Rejected by Yahweh: 9:10 – 17

No More Cult or King: 10:1 – 8

Destroyed by War: 10:9 – 15

Observations, continued

- Therefore the Lord would have to bring judgment in order for the people to learn discipline. They would have to plow some fields.
- Even in the midst of pronouncing judgment Hosea informed the people of a way to escape it in verse 12.
- ❖ Hosea concludes the chapter with announcement of judgment and the reasons why.

THE BOOK OF HOSEA

LESSON 7

Hosea's Prophecies 4:1 – 14:8

No More Festivals: 9:1 – 9

Rebels Rejected by Yahweh: 9:10 – 17

No More Cult or King: 10:1 – 8

Destroyed by War: 10:9 – 15

Exploration

Consider the Introduction to the Epistle of James and the Illumination section and Observation section for your answers.

1. Does prosperity impact the lives of God's children? Please explain why and how.
2. Why was it so difficult for the people of the Northern Kingdom to accept or consider the message of Hoses?
3. Do you ever compare who you are and your life style to the teachings in the Bible. Why or why not? If yes, how often?
4. Why do we commit some sins over and over again? Why can't we learn our lesson the first time?

Thought For The Week: Learn your lesson the first time you commit a sin. The Lord's grace and mercy may not always be extended to you.

